

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mid-summer in Florida is a hard time for me to get anything done. It's so hot and sultry you'd think it would be easy to find time to sit inside and write this column--no one wants to be outdoors for long, so that distraction is minimal! However, after 16 years here, I've learned that sweltering heat only makes me lazy. So, here I sit, hours away from my deadline, writing my second President's column for RRF. My procrastination at this important task has nothing to do with a lack of things to say. Your Board of Directors and Officers have been busy these past few months. We are in the midst of working through our second e-mail agenda of 2002, and are plowing through some difficult issues. One in particular merits your attention and feedback.

At the Board of Directors meeting in Winnipeg, it was pointed out that many of those elected to serve RRF have difficulty obtaining institutional support to attend the Annual General Membership and Board of Directors meetings. Although attendance at the annual conference is an enjoyable experience, for some, most notably the Treasurer, Secretary, and Editor-in-Chief, it is also a lot of work. As an organization, we are completely dependent on volunteers for these important tasks, and it seems almost inhuman to ask these folks to pay travel, room, and board to attend the annual meeting where their attendance benefits us all. Accordingly, at the request of the full Board, Directors Bob Rosenfield and Phil Detrich prepared a draft policy for review by the Board of Directors relative to RRF's provision of financial support for travel under certain circumstances where attendance at these meetings is critical. The draft policy, in a nutshell, would allow RRF to provide reimbursement of actual travel, lodging, and banquet expenditures (up to a specified, pre-approved and budgeted amount) for the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor-in-Chief, Directors, or other representatives specifically approved by the Board. The draft policy makes it clear that RRF reimbursement would be provided only as a supplement to institutional support, which would remain the primary financial means of attendance.

The Board of Directors is debating that proposal now via e-mail. There are two schools of thought on the proposal, and the Directors and Officers are split fairly evenly into the two camps. The first sees this as an essential change that will remove a financial disincentive that currently prohibits some from being able to serve RRF as an Officer, Director, or Editor. An argument in favor of this view is that it is enough that someone is willing to donate their time and talents to RRF; they shouldn't also have to reach into their pockets to pay for the opportunity. On the other side, there is the equally compelling argument that the members of RRF should not have to financially support their leaders' attendance at the annual meeting. Service to RRF provides rewards in other areas, and those rewards should be sufficient to offset any financial costs incurred.



All of your Directors and Officers are sensitive to how you perceive this

---

issue. After all, it is members' dues that would cover these costs. If you feel strongly about this issue, pro or con, I'd like to hear your thoughts between now and our annual meeting in New Orleans in late September. We will be discussing this proposal there, and I will share the member input I receive with the full Board of Directors at that time. This is one case where it is crucial that we hear from you so that we can reach the best decision for RRF. Just send me your thoughts in an e-mail message at [bmillsap@nettally.com](mailto:bmillsap@nettally.com).

At the same time we debate this issue, we are exploring ways of conducting RRF's business in a more cost-effective manner. One is e-mail. We've experimented this year with a formal approach for working through issues by distributing periodic e-mail agendas, and conducting discussions and votes on timely issues in that format. The results have been promising. The e-mail format also offers the prospect of keeping you better informed about the activities of your Board of Directors, and this is an opportunity we'll likely take advantage of starting next year.

With that, I'll close, and await your feedback on the travel reimbursement issue.

Best regards,

Brian

**RRF SEEKS NEW SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM CHAIR  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Responsibilities include:

- Prepare annual Call for Papers to be included in meeting circular.
- Coordinate with local committee concerning setup for paper sessions, ideas for special sessions (e.g., symposia and casual video/slide sessions), and keynote speakers.
- Receive abstracts for all general oral and poster sessions, organize sessions, and inform participants of acceptance, scheduling, and paper format.
- Coordinate with symposia chairs concerning scheduling, session management, organization of information to be included in program document, and notification of participants concerning scheduling.
- Prepare scheduling information and book of abstracts for inclusion in program document prepared by local committee.
- Select, assign, and coordinate session chairs for all general, oral paper sessions.
- Oversee management of paper sessions at meeting.
- Provide electronic files of all meeting abstracts to site manager for display on RRF web site.

Term is for three years beginning with the 2003 meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. Responsibilities will commence in early spring 2003 when preparation for producing the Call for Papers begins. Interested parties should contact Jeff Smith (phone: 1-801-484-6758, e-mail: [jsmith@hawkwatch.org](mailto:jsmith@hawkwatch.org)).

## 2002 RECIPIENT OF THE DEAN AMADON GRANT

### "Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) Habitat on the North Coastal Region of California" Timothy T. Weber, Humboldt State University

Northern Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) are large forest raptors that are distributed across North America and extend south throughout montane forests in the western U. S. (Squires and Reynolds 1997). Their nest sites are usually found in mature to old growth stands composed of larger trees, and they are frequently associated with meadows, riparian habitats or other natural openings.

The status of the Northern Goshawk in the western U.S. is currently controversial. Several organizations have petitioned to list the goshawk as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Some scientists have agreed that goshawk populations and reproduction may be declining in western North America, primarily due to overharvest of timber and human disturbance. However, other scientists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have determined that there is insufficient evidence to indicate a range contraction or a decline in numbers in western North America. There has never been a comprehensive survey for Northern Goshawks on the north coast of California. In that area, reduction in the amount of late successional forest, increased vegetation density in managed forest, and short harvest rotation schedules have likely resulted in a reduction of local goshawk populations. A detailed analysis of historic nest sites in the coastal belt of Northern California would provide insight into goshawk nest site use and broaden the understanding of the goshawk's status and the effects of timber harvest on goshawk populations.

Mr. Weber will survey historical goshawk nest sites on the north coast of California to determine goshawk occupancy and to explore the possibility that isolated goshawk populations exist outside of traditional habitat. A detailed analysis of historic sites at different scales will be used to find patterns, if present, of several variables: tree species and size class, canopy closure, slope, aspect, distance to water and to open areas, and contiguous patch size. His goal is to document goshawks' nest sites selection; why are they breeding in greater numbers to the east of the coastal belt?

#### THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

(FOUNDED 1966)

##### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Brian Millsap  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Keith Bildstein

SECRETARY: Judith Henckel  
TREASURER: James Fitzpatrick

##### DIRECTORS

INTERNATIONAL #1: Eduardo E. Inigo-Elias  
INTERNATIONAL #2: Ricardo Rodriques Estrella  
INTERNATIONAL #3: Beatriz Arroyo  
NORTH AMERICAN #1: Phillip Detrich  
NORTH AMERICAN #2: Laurie Goodrich  
NORTH AMERICAN #3: Jeff P. Smith

AT LARGE #1: Jemima Parry-Jones  
AT LARGE #2: Petra Bohall Wood  
AT LARGE #3: Michael W. Collopy  
AT LARGE #4: Carol McIntyre  
AT LARGE #5: Robert Rosenfield  
AT LARGE #6: Ed Henckel

*Wingspan* is distributed twice a year to all RRF members. It is also available to non-members for a subscription rate of \$10 per year. *The Journal of Raptor Research* (ISSN 0892-1016) is published quarterly and available to individuals for \$33 per year (\$18 per year for students) and to libraries and institutions for \$50 per year from: Ornithological Societies of North America, P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044 USA. Add \$5 for destinations outside of the continental United States. Individual and student memberships renewed before November 15 are \$30 and \$15, respectively. Persons interested in predatory birds are invited to join The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. Send requests for information concerning membership, subscriptions, special publications, or change of address to: Ornithological Societies of North America, P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044 USA.

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.  
RESOLUTION**

**INADVERTENT POISONING OF ELEONORA'S FALCON**

**July 2002**

WHEREAS the Eleonora's Falcon is a species protected under international wildlife treaties, being listed in Annex II of the Bonn (CMS) and Bern Conventions, in Appendix II of CITES, and in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, is fully legally protected in all breeding range states, and classified as "Rare" and SPEC 2 in Europe; and

WHEREAS the Eleonora's Falcon is a species of special conservation concern because its breeding range (the center of which are the Aegean islands and Crete, which hold about 70% of the world population) is almost exclusively limited to uninhabited islets of the Mediterranean, and because of its relatively small population size (estimated at 6300 breeding pairs); and

WHEREAS the naturally low reproductive potential of the Eleonora's Falcon will make it difficult for the population to recover from increases in mortality rates, particularly in the adult population; and

WHEREAS insect prey, sometimes captured hundreds of kilometers away from breeding colonies, are important to Eleonora's Falcons especially during June-August; and

WHEREAS farmers in Crete have been illegally using excessively high concentrations of Lannate (active component Methomyl) to kill small birds and other wildlife considered as pests to protect crops, unintentionally causing important mortality of Eleonora's Falcons; and

WHEREAS the observed decline (50% in three years) in the breeding population of the two monitored colonies in the vicinity of Crete may result in the extinction of the colonies and the extinction of the Cretan falcon population in a very short time (a scenario that may be similar in many other un-surveyed colonies); and

WHEREAS the Raptor Research Foundation Inc. (RRF) is the world's largest organization for research and conservation of birds of prey;

THEREFORE, the RRF SUPPORTS the actions so far undertaken by BirdLife International (the world's largest organization for bird conservation) and HOS (BirdLife in Greece) and acknowledges the willingness of the manufacturer of Lannate to work toward the understanding of the causes of decline in the Eleonora's Falcon population and to identify possible solutions; and

the RRF URGES the manufacturer of Lannate, in collaboration with governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, to take immediate actions to reduce its improper use and its resultant impact on protected wildlife; and

the RRF URGES the Greek government to support activities, by government agencies and non-governmental organizations, focused on restoring the population of the Eleonora's Falcon to the 1997 level, and to improve the enforcement of the existing laws on pesticides; and

the RRF URGES the EU Commission to include in the authorization process, envisaged in the EU Directive 91/414/EEC, provisions aimed at minimizing the risk of improper use of plant protection products that may negatively affect threatened wildlife.

*(Editor's note: CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; CMS = Convention on Migratory Species; EEC = European Economic Community; EU = European Union; HOS = Hellenic Ornithological Society; SPEC 2 = Species of European Conservation Concern, Category 2)*

---

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.  
DRAFT RESOLUTION DRAFT**

*The following resolution on lead poisoning in raptors has been submitted to the Raptor Research Foundation Resolutions Committee by HawkWatch International for consideration by the RRF membership at the 2002 Annual General Meeting in New Orleans. At the meeting, members will have the opportunity to discuss, propose improvements to, and vote upon adoption of the resolution. In the meantime, members who wish to comment can e-mail the Resolutions Committee Chair, Mike McGrady at [mikejmcgrady@aol.com](mailto:mikejmcgrady@aol.com).*

**LEAD EXPOSURE TO RAPTORS FROM AMMUNITION AND TACKLE**

WHEREAS lead is the primary material used in ammunition and weighted fishing tackle; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that lead exposure from ammunition and tackle can be lethal for dozens of avian species, including Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, California Condors, Common Loons, and Trumpeter Swans; and

WHEREAS non-lethal lead exposure can increase susceptibility in wildlife to trauma, starvation, or disease; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banned the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting in 1991 to reduce lead poisoning of waterfowl and Bald Eagles; and

WHEREAS Maine, New Hampshire, and New York have banned the sale and/or use of certain sizes of lead fishing sinkers to protect loons; and

WHEREAS toxic contamination from lead ammunition at some shooting ranges has resulted in range closures to eliminate the possibility of those ranges being designated toxic waste sites; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Defense, the largest single user of ammunition in the United States, has recognized the toxic danger of lead ammunition and as a result has worked to develop non-lead alternatives through the "Green Bullet Program"; and

WHEREAS non-toxic alternatives to lead ammunition exist which have ballistic and killing characteristics similar to lead and are sometimes within the price range of lead; and

WHEREAS affordable suitable alternatives exist for lead fishing tackle; and

WHEREAS the threat of lead poisoning of birds (especially raptors) has been recognized in other areas of the world and has resulted in bans on lead ammunition and tackle in Northern Japan, Great Britain, and parts of Europe; and

WHEREAS Hawk Watch International, through a lead reduction program, is committed to educating hunters, shooters, and anglers about the dangers of lead to wildlife and encouraging them to use suitable, non-toxic alternatives; encouraging manufactures to develop and market alternatives; and creating a coalition of other concerned organizations to strengthen outreach efforts;

THEREFORE the RRF encourages programs aimed at reducing the threat of lead poisoning in raptors and endorses the objectives of Hawk Watch International's lead reduction effort.

---

## 2001 RRF AWARD RECIPIENTS

by Petra Bohall Wood

**Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award** (Selection Committee: Clint W. Boal, Chair; Brent Bibles; Joan Morrison) Recipient: **Fernando Hiraldo**. Thanks to outgoing Selection Committee members David Andersen, Chair; Richard Knight; and Karen Steenhof.

**William C. Anderson Memorial Award** (Selection Committee: Laurie Goodrich & John Smallwood, Co-chairs; Reviewers: Jim Bednarz, Jim Belthoff, James Duncan, Rick Gerhardt, Laurie Goodrich, Pat Hall, Kurt Mazur, Joan Morrison) Recipients: First Place (plaque, \$100, 1-year RRF membership, banquet ticket): **Ryan Brady**, Boise State University, "Effects of mammalian dung on predation of Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) nests." Runners-up (1-year RRF membership, banquet ticket): **Travis Booms**, Boise State University, "Greenland Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) food habits documented by time-lapse video" and **Marcel Gahbauer**, McGill University, "Migration patterns of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) in eastern North America." Special Award: **Reed deMent**, Cambridge Academy (12 years old, youngest presenter at an RRF meeting, results of a school science project), "Capture success of American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) during the non-breeding season influenced by sex of bird in upstate South Carolina."

**Dean Amadon Grant** (Selection Committee: Carole Griffiths, Chair): Recipients: \$200 each to **Stephanie Grossman**, University of Alberta, "Responses of a forest raptor community to critical

habitat thresholds in central Alberta" and **Denis Bogomolov**, Moscow State Pedagogical University, "The changes of ranges and habitats of Bright Harriers within European Russia in the Twentieth Century."

**Leslie Brown Memorial Grant** (Selection Committee: Jeff Lincer, Chair; Gary Duke; Rich Howard; Alan Kemp): Recipients: \$1000 each to Maria Diekmann, Rare and Endangered Species Trust, "Cape Griffon Vulture telemetry project" and Ngoni Chitemamuswe, Zimbabwe Department of National Parks, "Motobo Hills Black Eagle monitoring and educational project."

## THE FRAN AND FREDERICK HAMERSTROM AWARD 2001

by Clint W. Boal

The Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award was established by the Raptor Research Foundation in 1991 to honor Drs. Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom and recognize their contributions to our understanding of raptor natural history and ecology through their long-term ecological studies. Up to one Hamerstrom award is given annually to recognize an individual for significant research contributions in raptor natural history and ecology.

The recipient of the 2001 Raptor Research Foundation's Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award is Dr. Fernando Hiraldo. Over the last three decades, Dr. Hiraldo has engaged in research on numerous species and ecosystems on three continents. Although he has not worked exclusively with birds of prey, he has had a substantial impact in raptor ecology through his research, training of graduate students, and involvement in the political arena. Largely due to Dr. Hiraldo's efforts, Spain is currently a leader in the world of raptor research.

Dr. Hiraldo's cumulative impact on raptor ecology has also been felt through the training he has provided to graduate students, having trained some of raptor biology's finest ecologists today. Many of his former students have gone on to initiate their own research programs in conservation of birds of prey, and contribute significantly to the Raptor Research Foundation by organizing meetings and serving on the Board of Directors.

Dr. Hiraldo's impact continues to grow with his current position as Director of the Doñana Biological Station. As director of the station, he has the great responsibility of protection and study of the Doñana National Park, an ecological treasure and world heritage site where seventy percent of European bird species, many of them endangered raptors, are residents or move through on migration.

Truly, Dr. Hiraldo has made, and continues to make significant contributions to the understanding of raptor natural history and ecology. It is with great pleasure that the Raptor Research Foundation presents the Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom Award to Dr. Fernando Hiraldo.

## RESTORATION OF APLOMADO FALCONS EXPANDS TO WEST TEXAS

### Sixteen Young Falcons Released on Private Ranches

The restoration of the Aplomado Falcon expanded into west Texas on July 2, 2002 when 16 falcon chicks left The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho and were flown to Van Horn, Texas. "The habitat in south Texas is very close to reaching carrying capacity so the expansion into west Texas is essential," stated J. Peter Jenny, Vice President of The Peregrine Fund, "The habitat in west Texas is excellent for this species."

The Aplomado Falcon is the one remaining falcon on the U.S. endangered species list and a top priority of The Peregrine Fund. It had been gone from the United States from the 1950s until 1995 when a pair of falcons raised and released by biologists from The Peregrine Fund nested. At the end of 2001, 33 pairs were known to exist in the wild, all in south Texas. This success is due to the reintroduction of captive raised Aplomado Falcons by The Peregrine Fund with the cooperation of the private sector, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The release of Aplomado Falcons is being conducted under a "Safe Harbor" agreement. The agreement is among landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Peregrine Fund. The agreement encourages private landowners to participate in the restoration of the Aplomado Falcon by exempting additional provisions or liabilities applicable under the Endangered Species Act. Property owners maintaining a baseline of Aplomado Falcons and agreeing to the release of Aplomado Falcons would be free to use or develop other areas of their property, even if the use results in "incidental take" of an Aplomado Falcon.

As of July 1, 2002, land owners in 42 west Texas counties are eligible to sign the Safe Harbor Agreement. "The great thing about the Safe Harbor approach is that it can protect many landowners in west Texas, whether they are falcon reintroduction partners or neighboring landowners," said Gary Graham, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Director, "Safe Harbor agreements have worked well for landowners in the south Texas reintroduction project. Even with the release of hundreds of falcons over the past several years there, I'm not aware of a single problem involving private property owners. Now we have a chance to repeat that success in west Texas, helping both falcons and landowners."

"As ranchers we are looking forward to having Aplomado Falcons back in west Texas," stated John Means, on whose ranch 11 of the 16 falcon chicks were released, "Our partnership with The Peregrine Fund will enable us to begin working toward the restoration of this beautiful falcon." The Means family has been ranching in west Texas for five generations.

The restoration of the Aplomado Falcon is a cooperative project with support from Houston Endowment, State of Texas, The Brown Foundation, Kleberg Foundation, ExxonMobil, Engelhard Foundation, Burlington Resources, American Electric Power, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Tapeats Fund, Peter Toot, and several others. More information on the project can be found on The Peregrine Fund's web site ([www.peregrinefund.org](http://www.peregrinefund.org)).

---

## DEVELOPMENTS IN CONSERVATION OF THE SAKER FALCON

by Nick Fox

Since the Middle East Falcon Research Group conference in Ulan Baatar in 2000, the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA), United Arab Emirates (UAE), has continued making surveys of Saker Falcons in Siberia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China. Although there are still significant populations in parts of Siberia and in Mongolia, surveys in China so far have proved disappointing. The Chinese previously estimated that they had a considerable reserve of breeding Sakers, but surveys in Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia over the past two years have revealed only scattered nests, with poor productivity. ERWDA has yet to survey the central plateau, which is largely a Buddhist region and therefore holds more prospect of nests being undisturbed. Generally speaking, most of the Sakers trapped in China in the autumn originate in Mongolia and Siberia, rather than from China.

In Kazakhstan too, the population of western Sakers is very much reduced to pockets and isolated pairs. To the south, in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Kirghistan, trapping has been heavy and the populations severely depleted. Modelling of global productivity of this species against existing harvest rates forecasts a continuing decline. Data from members of the Middle East Falcon Research Group indicate that Saudi Arabia imports about 4000 Sakers per year, Qatar about 1000, and Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE about 500-1000 each. As the source countries only license export of a few hundred Sakers in total, most of the 7000-8000 Sakers reaching Arabia must be illegal, as must be all the Peregrines which are already Appendix 1. Solutions are not easy. Uplisting the Saker to CITES Appendix 1 might make the source countries treat falcon smugglers more seriously. On the other hand it would take the Saker out of legal trade, thus creating a disincentive for the conservation of wild Sakers and their habitats through sustainable use.

Following investigation by CITES of the trans-shipment of caviar through UAE, the UAE was temporarily suspended from international trade. As part of the lifting of the suspension, ERWDA has pioneered a system of falcon registration in the UAE, linked to an international passport system. The UAE hopes that this will promote trade in captive-bred falcons and eliminate illegal imports of wild-caught falcons. It will be a difficult period while UAE switches over almost entirely to captive-bred falcons. Adjacent falconry countries depend heavily on illegal wild falcons and have far fewer controls than the UAE. How to manage a transition to captive-bred or sustainable harvest of wild falcons will be a difficult task ahead of us. For the source countries too, there are difficulties in establishing genuinely sustainable quotas and enforcing them. Corruption is widespread at all levels. At a meeting in Ulan Baatar in August 2002, CITES will be calling for a meeting of all involved parties in early 2003; ERWDA will be reporting on progress so far and on ways of reversing the trend.

*(Editor's note: Nick Fox is Director of Falcon Research and Management with the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, United Arab Emirates.)*

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR A VULTURE WORKSHOP**  
**at the 6th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls**  
**Budapest, Hungary, May 18-23, 2003**

Convenor: Munir Virani, The Peregrine Fund  
Co-convenor: Mark Anderson, Vulture Study Group

✉ Please send abstracts to [WWGBP@aol.com](mailto:WWGBP@aol.com) and  
Munir Virani ([munir.virani@bigfoot.com](mailto:munir.virani@bigfoot.com)) or Mark Anderson ([manderson@grand.ncape.gov.za](mailto:manderson@grand.ncape.gov.za))

✉ Before submitting an abstract, please visit <http://www.raptors-international.de>  
for an abstract submission form and other relevant information.

The recent decline in populations of *Gyps* vultures in south Asia has stimulated much interest and discussion. Field research and diagnostic studies have been initiated in the Indian subcontinent by various organizations and their partners, to understand the cause of gout-associated vulture mortalities and help ensure that populations do not fall below sustainable levels. Identifying conservation priorities and implementing management actions for species in jeopardy demand a thorough understanding of their basic ecology and behaviour. Aspects of Asian *Gyps* vulture population densities, breeding success, mortality factors, behaviour, and movements are poorly understood, and publications are few, perhaps because the birds were so common in the past and therefore not considered a study priority.

In addition to The Peregrine Fund's Asian Vulture Crisis Project in Pakistan and Nepal, the Bombay Natural History Society, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Zoological Society of London, and the National Birds of Prey Centre are conducting vulture surveys in India and are in the process of constructing a vulture captive-care facility to understand the cause of the vulture decline. In April 2002, the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Vulture Study Group met to discuss the Asian vulture crisis and its implications for vultures in Africa. Monitoring vulture populations across sub-Saharan African countries and collecting blood for haematology, biochemistry, and serology as baseline information were identified as priority studies. Population monitoring, haematology, and biochemistry studies on *Gyps* vultures are underway in Kenya, Botswana, and South Africa.

In view of international concern over *Gyps* vultures, we have been asked by the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls to convene a workshop at the 6th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls. This workshop plans to gather a panel of international experts conducting research on Old World vultures. The goal of the workshop will be to present the latest results of ongoing vulture field research and conservation initiatives, and use this knowledge to understand vulture population trends and other aspects of their biology, ecology, and health in south Asia. After the workshop, a round table discussion will be held to identify and evaluate the conservation status of Old World vultures globally and to pool ideas to develop a more effective recovery and conservation plan for Asian vultures in jeopardy.

We invite you to participate in the vulture workshop at Budapest. Unfortunately, funding is always limited; we therefore urge participants/organizations to make every effort to attend this workshop so that we can together contribute to resolving the vulture crisis in south Asia.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Munir Virani & Mark Anderson

---

## TRAINING WORKSHOP AT JATAYU VULTURE CARE CENTRE

**Pinjore, India**

by Jemima Parry-Jones MBE

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the National Birds of Prey Centre (NBPC) and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) are working together in a linked project funded by a Grant from the Darwin Initiative from the British Government since early in 2000. The objectives of the project are to try and identify the cause of the dramatic decline of the *Gyps* vultures in the Indian subcontinent, see if it is possible to solve whatever is causing the decline and possibly in the future set up a captive breeding programme should it be needed.

Dr. Andrew Cunningham, pathologist at ZSL, and Jemima Parry-Jones, MBE Director of NBPC, as a part of the Darwin Initiative project travelled to India at the end of May 2002. They travelled via Delhi to Pinjore which is situated in the foothills of the Himalayas. In a National Forest on a piece of land kindly donated by the Haryana Wildlife Department (HWD) has been built a Vulture Captive Care Centre. The enclosures there have been designed by NBPC, and a clinic has been built to the design of Dr. Cunningham so that initial investigative work can be done with the sick and dead vultures that will be housed there, both in terms of treatment and post mortem's. One of the main problems in discovering any cause for the decline is that it has been almost impossible to get very freshly dead vultures to be able to post mortem.

Among the four groups and with much work from Dr. Prakash from BNHS, plus invaluable assistance from Mr. Jakati the Director and some of his wildlife staff from HWD, three large holding aviaries have been built on land given to the project by HWD and four quarantine pens, with four more quarantine pens to be added by the end of July 2002. The small clinic/laboratory has just about been completed as well and only awaits a couple of deep freezers and a little more laboratory equipment. The only thing that is holding things up now is a water supply which is in hand.

JPJ travelled out with AC to run a workshop on the captive husbandry, handling and management of vultures. This was primarily to ensure that BNHS staff were competent and comfortable to look after, catch up and handle vultures. Dr. Prakash had visited NBPC for three months last year, training, but the staff on the ground needed training as well. Mr. Jakati and some wildlife department staff also visited the Centre and discussed handling and management techniques for possible assistance in the future. There is one vulture held at the Centre at this time and as this bird needed a physical check up, the team learnt how to capture it quickly and with the least stress, and how to handle and weigh the bird. At the same time three levels of cleaning pens were covered by AC and JPJ, and a protocol established. This was written up later.

Vultures are particularly difficult birds to deal with, because of their habit of vomiting under stress, and having to handle sick birds regularly is very stressful, so there is going to be a learning curve on what works and what doesn't. There are India-wide surveys going on at the moment to assess the current status of the vultures. These will hopefully be published very soon, as it is important that

they are.

Since their return from India the second four quarantine enclosures have been built, and it is planned that a vet from the UK with training from both ZSL and NBPC will be able to go out to India for an extended stay to work with the vultures that are going to be caught up for the Captive Care Centre. This will make a huge difference to have that sort of expertise on site.

Funding is a vital part of any project so if anyone out there is interested in helping with any funding please contact us. £8000 would build us offices and accommodation close to the site, £500 would buy a deep freeze. £60 a month would feed our vet! If you are collecting funds for vultures, this project is a good one to support.

## GRIFFON VULTURE IS A SPECIES

### *Commentary*

Until recently, everyone called the vultures in the genus *Gyps* 'Vultures,' and two names served to distinguish the species, e.g., Cape Vulture, Himalayan Vulture, Griffon Vulture, and so on.

However, in recent times, some authorities have been using the names 'Griffon Vulture' or 'Griffon' to refer to the larger vultures in the genus *Gyps*, but not to the smaller ones, which were still referred to as 'Vulture.' They contend that these larger species are more than "just" vultures, they are super-vultures. These so-called Griffons are a special type of vulture with heavy bodies, cliff nesting, colonial, thick neck, etc. Presumably, these authorities would recognize the genus *Pseudogyps* for the smaller vultures. However, most taxonomic authorities do not recognize *Pseudogyps*.

Using 'Griffon' and 'Griffon Vulture' for vultures other than *Gyps fulvus* has caused confusion. Such that nowadays one must use three names to be perfectly clear which species one is referring to, especially for *Gyps fulvus*, referred to as Eurasian Griffon Vulture.

Perhaps if the larger, cliff-nesting vultures are very different from the smaller, tree nesting vultures, which I doubt, then different common and generic names should be used for them. But the generic name used for the larger vultures should not be one that has in the past referred to a single species.

We use the name 'Eagle' for many species that differ much more than these two groups of *Gyps* vultures, including much more variation in size, for both tree and cliff nesting species, and in different genera. For example, the difference between Verreaux's Eagle and Lesser Spotted Eagle, both in the genus *Aquila* and both called Eagle, are much greater than those between White-backed and Cape Vultures. One nests on cliffs and the other in trees. Why then should we use two different generic common names for vulture species in the same genus?

I recommend that all *Gyps* vultures be called 'Vulture' and that the name 'Griffon' be used only as the traditional common name for *Gyps fulvus*.

***William S. Clark***

## RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE EAST EUROPEAN/MEDITERRANEAN GRIFFON VULTURE WORKING GROUP

by R. Boegel & L. Slotta-Bachmayr

The East European/Mediterranean Griffon Vulture Working Group (EGVWG) was founded in March 2000 at Salzburg, Austria to:

- evaluate the status of the Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus ssp.* in its eastern European and Mediterranean range,
- establish a management concept (action plan) for the Eurasian Griffon Vulture in this area,
- monitor the breeding and non-breeding parts of the population,
- identify interactions between subpopulations, and
- facilitate communication and information exchange among EGVWG members.

The group's second annual meeting was hosted by the Nature Information Conservation Center "Eastern Rhodopes" (NICCER) in Madjarovo, Bulgaria, from 20-22 October 2001. Welcome addresses were presented by Svetlana Hristova (NICCER), Boris Barov (Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds), Ljboomic Dainovski (representative of the Bulgarian ministry of environment), Atanas Dimitrov (mayor of Madjarovo), and Ralf Boegel (EGVWG). Thirty-seven participants from nine countries attended the meeting.

The scientific program consisted of presentations on status, research, and conservation-related topics:

- Hristova, S. (NICCER): The status of *Gyps fulvus* in the Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria.
- Stoynov, E. (Wild Flora & Fauna Fund [FWFF], Bulgaria): Reintroduction projects in SW of Bulgaria and Eastern Stara Mountain in the frame of VULTURA program.
- Lisitchanets T. & E. Stoynov (FWFF Macedonia/FWFF Bulgaria): Threats and the conservation measures of the Griffon Vultures in Macedonia and planned activities for 2002.
- Ivanov, I. & S. Marin (Green Balkans): Green Balkans' activities for vulture conservation.
- Stoynov, E. (FWFF Bulgaria): Planned reintroduction/restocking activities and an overview on the situation of Griffon Vultures in Macedonia.
- Vaassen, E. (Raptor Research & Rehabilitation Center Turkey): Recent status of the Griffon Vulture, *Gyps fulvus* in Turkey.
- Sakoulis, A. & S. Xirouchakis: The status of vultures on Crete and details on a ringing and a radiotracking project.
- Hatzofe, O. (Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel [SPNI]): Consideration for the selection of raptors for reintroduction and restocking programs.
- Karl, E. (Salzburg Zoo): Energy requirements and body temperature of Griffon Vultures at the northern European Alps.
- Sarazin, F. & A. Robert (Paris University, Laboratoire d'Ecologie): Design and state of development of an EGVWG database on vulture observations and ringing information.

Two local excursions to colonies and feeding sites in the Eastern Rhodopes (organised by the NICCER team) were part of the meeting, and two other post-meeting excursions completed the

program. One of them was organised by Green Balkans and introduced us to their raptor rehabilitation centre in Stara Zagora and veterinary facilities at the university there. The other was organised by the World Wildlife Fund's Dadia Forest Reserve Project (Greece) to introduce us to this special protected area and show us the vulture feeding sites and colonies on the southern side of the Rhodopes. The excursions provided detailed information on Griffon, Black, and Egyptian vulture colonies, as well as other raptor species and related ecological and anthropogenic circumstances. These tours were an important part of the meeting program and reconfirmed the argument that having meetings close to vulture colonies is important for understanding the local situation and for our working group activities.

The importance of standardised protocols within a working group has been stressed since our first annual meeting, resulting in general agreements for ageing, ringing, wing-tagging, and necropsy-sampling. In addition to standardised methods, a common EGVWG database is essential for large-scale analyses. Francois Sarrazin and his team (Paris University, Laboratoire d'Ecologie) made a technical presentation on the integrated French database which handles mainly data on marked individuals (ringed, wing-tagged, radio-tagged or microchip-tagged individuals) but also surveys of colonies (such as breeding phenology and success). Data on feeding sites (numbers of observed animals and food provided) can also be incorporated into this database. All participants agreed that this database should be used as the common EGVWG platform to exchange data. To test suitability of the database during practical work, a two-step approach will be followed, consisting of practical tests by various groups during their local work and subsequent adaptation to needs revealed during the testing phase. We hope that testing, adapting, and redesigning the database will be possible until our next meeting, and final implementation can occur by then. A common agreement on use of the database will be worked out at our next meeting (publication rights, etc.).

Two resolutions were passed by the delegates (see EGVWG's website: <http://www.gyps.org>). One focuses on the importance of the Bulgarian Griffon Vulture population for the eastern European range, the second deals with the massive threat to vulture populations caused by illegal poisoning. As discussion on possible reintroduction/restocking activities has been an important subject at past meetings, and related issues like rehabilitation/reintegration of birds have also received great interest, two recommendations were worked out addressing these issues (see EGVWG's website). Both of these position statements serve as basic guidelines for all EGVWG activities. In this context, the establishment of a breeding stock is an important prerequisite for any reintroduction/restocking activities; EGVWG supports Emilian Stoyanov's (FWFF Bulgaria/Macedonia) proposal to continue his work on this topic in close cooperation with the European studbook holder for Griffons (Iñigo Sánchez) and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, with the aim of establishing a European Endangered Species Project on Eurasian Griffon Vultures. At present, there are no indications that using Eurasian Griffons from the western European range would be questionable from a scientific point of view. However, Francois Sarrazin and Ohad Hatzofe (SPNI) will continue their work on genetic aspects.

The 3rd annual EGVWG meeting will be held in Ankara, Turkey from 3-6 October 2002. The conference will be co-hosted by the EGVWG, the Turkish Society for Scientific Research & Rehabilitation of Diurnal and Nocturnal Birds of Prey, and the Turkish Ministry of Forestry. The meeting is open to everybody interested in vulture biology. Further details will be posted soon on EGVWG's website.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEOTROPICAL RAPTORS  
&  
HARPY EAGLE SYMPOSIUM**

**The Peregrine Fund • Fondo Peregrino - Panamá**

**Panama City, Panama  
24 - 27 October 2002**

The Peregrine Fund and Fondo Peregrino - Panamá invite you to join scientists, conservationists, resource managers, falconers, representatives of zoos, government and non-governmental organizations, and other persons and institutions with an interest in research and/or conservation of birds of prey in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in a meeting to share knowledge, interests, and concerns and help develop a network of practitioners in the fields of raptor conservation, research, captive-breeding, and falconry.

The meeting will include:

- a one-day symposium dedicated to Harpy Eagle research, conservation, and captive breeding
- a symposium dedicated to raptor migration in the Neotropics
- invited speakers on raptor biology and conservation
- contributed papers and posters on raptor conservation and research in the Neotropics.
- a workshop to develop a network of practitioners in the field of raptor research and conservation
- field trips to the Neotropical Raptor Center, Summit Gardens Harpy Eagle display, and to observe raptor migration

**Mark Your Calendars and Register Now!**

- ✉ Submit a registration form with payment for each participant.
- ✉ Make your accommodation reservations at the Holiday Inn, Panama City by calling 1-507-206-5555 or sending a fax to 1-507-223-9043. Please be sure to indicate that you are attending the Neotropical Conference to receive the reduced rate. You may also send an e-mail to [mmancuso@holidayinnpanama.com](mailto:mmancuso@holidayinnpanama.com) to make your reservation. If faxing or e-mailing your reservation please provide the following information: last name, first name, type of room, smoking or non smoking, check-in date and check-out date, arrival time to the hotel, and a credit card number with expiration date. For more information on the Holiday Inn please visit: <http://www.holidayinnpanama.com>.

Details and registration forms are available on The Peregrine Fund's web-site at: <http://www.peregrinefund.org/nrconference.html>. Or, contact: Neotropical Raptor Conference, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 Flying Hawk Lane W, Boise, ID 83709 USA; phone: 1-208-362-3717; fax: 1-208-362-2376; e-mail: [tpf@peregrinefund.org](mailto:tpf@peregrinefund.org).

## **NEWS FROM HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY AND ITS NEW ACOPIAN CENTER FOR CONSERVATION LEARNING**

by Keith L. Bildstein

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the largest and oldest member-based raptor conservation organization in the world, announces the opening of a new research and training facility, the Acopian Center for Conservation Learning. Located at the foot of Hawk Mountain in the central Appalachian Mountains of eastern Pennsylvania, the Acopian Center serves as the Sanctuary's global information hub for raptor migration science and conservation.

Over the past two decades, more than 200 international interns from 38 countries have trained at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Recognizing the need for increased housing and working space for this program, Hawk Mountain decided to build a world-class research facility to meet this demand.

The Acopian Center includes residences for interns, graduate students, and visiting scientists, along with a well-equipped research center. The latter, which is home to the Sanctuary's programs in conservation science, includes its library and archives, as well as a large conference room, map (GIS) lab, teaching lab, and office space for 16 visiting students and scientists. In addition to living and working space, residents at the new Center are provided with laptop computers linked to a wireless network that permits ready access to Sanctuary databases, e-mail, and the Internet. The Acopian Center begins operations in autumn 2002 with interns from Azerbaijan, Canada, Colombia, Kenya, New Zealand, and the United States. A generous contribution from Mr. Sarkis Acopian made the facility possible.

Students with interests in raptor migration science and conservation, and in Appalachian Mountain ecology can apply for places in the Sanctuary's four-month, autumn (15 August - 5 December) and spring (15 March - 10 July) intern classes, and for briefer, two-month, summer (June - July) field experiences. Information regarding these and other opportunities is available at the Sanctuary's web page ([www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org)), or by contacting Dr. Keith L. Bildstein, Director of Conservation Science, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, 1700 Hawk Mountain Road, Kempton, PA 19529 USA, e-mail: [bildstein@hawkmountain.org](mailto:bildstein@hawkmountain.org).

### **THE MORLEY NELSON FELLOWSHIP**

The Morley Nelson Fellowship, awarded by the Conservation Research Foundation, is a stipend of up to \$600 to support work reflecting the multi-faceted career of Morley Nelson. Priority will be given to applicants in raptor research, management, and conservation who might use the stipend to supplement or attract other funding. More than one award could be made each year, and Fellowships could extend more than one year. The criteria for this Fellowship are broad and not restricted to raptor research; anything bearing on the conservation of raptors will be considered, such as habitat issues, education, cinematography, etc. Send three copies of a brief proposal ( $\leq 4$  pages, including a 1-page personal resume) outlining goals, objectives, and expected results/products of the study or activity; names of three references; total budget; and other sources of support to: William G. Mattox, Conservation Research Foundation, 8300 Gantz Avenue, Boise, ID 83709 USA, phone: 1-208-362-3435, e-mail (for information only): [wgmattox@aol.com](mailto:wgmattox@aol.com). Deadline is 1 October.

## 6th WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS

**Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 May 2003**

At the invitation of BirdLife Hungary, the 6th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls will be held from 18-23 May 2003 in Budapest. All persons interested in either Falconiformes or Strigiformes are cordially invited to attend the conference, irrespective of whether they are members of WWGBP, the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls. The conference will be held in the Hotel Agro Conference Centre, situated on Svabhegy, the highest point of the hilly district of Buda, with a panoramic view of Budapest and on the edge of a forest full of bird life. Fully equipped with up-to-date technical services, the centre can accommodate up to 500 participants in its main hall and classrooms, with a number of additional meeting rooms, and is easily reached by bus from the centre of the city (15 min.).

The scientific programme will run from Monday, 19 May, to Friday, 23 May, with a break on 21 May for one-day excursions. Suggestions for the conference (themes, submission of papers, excursions, etc.) are welcome and should be e-mailed, faxed, or sent to: WWGBP, P.O. Box 52, Towcester NN12 7ZW, England; phone/fax: 44-1604-862331; e-mail: [WWGBP@aol.com](mailto:WWGBP@aol.com) and [robin.chancellor@virgin.net](mailto:robin.chancellor@virgin.net) (please send all e-mail to both addresses).

As with previous World Conferences, resolutions will be adopted at the end of the meeting and subsequently sent to the governments and other organisations concerned. In the past, these resolutions have in some degree proved to be powerful instruments in the conservation of birds of prey. Since the textual editing and translation have proved time-consuming, draft resolutions should be submitted at least one month before the opening of the conference to the WWGBP Secretary (R. D. Chancellor, [robin.chancellor@virgin.net](mailto:robin.chancellor@virgin.net)). For the formulation of these, kindly refer to the texts of resolutions from previous World Conferences, as printed in the relevant proceedings.

Hungary is now firmly established as one of Europe's best regions for birding. With a wide variety of largely unspoilt or else well-protected habitats, it has an impressive range of species, many of them rare elsewhere, among which are 24 regular diurnal raptors and 8 regular owls, including flourishing populations of Imperial Eagle and Saker Falcon. Following the conference, participants can accordingly choose among six different 3-day and 5-day excursions to the choicest areas of the country.

Full conference details--including registration and abstract submission forms, and post-conference excursion descriptions and prices--can be found on the WWGBP website ([http://www.raptors-international.de/NEXT\\_CONFERENCE/next\\_conference.html](http://www.raptors-international.de/NEXT_CONFERENCE/next_conference.html)) or requested from the addresses given above.

## THE BIRD OF PREY MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL DISTANCE-LEARNING COURSE

Falconry and the breeding of raptors are currently expanding in the western world. Therefore it is increasingly important for falconers, breeders, and those concerned with the rehabilitation and veterinary health of these birds to have some knowledge of the welfare needs of their birds and a general understanding of their biology.

We have come up with a series of bird of prey management videos which is being developed into a modular tuition course for those interested in the welfare, health, and keeping of birds of prey. There are many books available on the subject, but we believe that people learn best from a moving image supported by sound and the written word. We hope to bring the series to DVD in the near future.

Our approach is not a how-to-do-it one, rather a "let's ask the birds" one. So, we constantly refer back to the birds in the wild as a starting point for finding out their needs and characteristics. We also show how the same problems are handled in different ways in different countries and traditions. Underlying everything is a strong scientific approach, questioning everything rather than taking traditions for granted. Although the course is a type of distance learning, we do not provide a certificate nor is there any course work. Our aim is to get the information circulated as widely as possible so that the birds benefit.

So far we have produced four modules; each consists of a film of 60 to 90 minutes duration with a technical handbook to accompany. It takes six months to produce each module, and we have been filming up to three years ahead. The first four modules are: Nutrition, Basic Training, Anatomy, and Health Care. We are currently filming for the next module on Captive Breeding. Further modules will deal with fitness, housing, and first aid (see [www.falcons.co.uk/faraway/ffp/](http://www.falcons.co.uk/faraway/ffp/)). They are filmed in many countries and aimed at anyone dealing with raptors either as a hobby or in a professional capacity. The consultants and tutors for the series are professionally qualified up to Ph.D. standard.

The films are currently available in English, Spanish and Arabic; if we identify a need for another language, this must be added before DVD formatting. The technical handbooks are in English only, and the book which accompanies the series, *Understanding the Bird of Prey*, is available in English and Spanish by 2003.

Now that we have produced the first four modules, we are looking to present them to a wider market. We would like to offer the course, or any modules from the course that are suitable to your needs, as part of the teaching or training programmes through your organisation. Rather than waiting until we have a complete series, we would prefer to start using the modules in a more organized way and get feedback from users to help improve the modules as we go along. This programme is unique, and we hope its use will inform and educate people in an area where they would otherwise have limited knowledge. This we hope will then indirectly benefit the birds of prey themselves.

If you are interested, please contact me and see if we can help.

Kind regards,

Nick Fox

---

### The Bird of Prey Management Series

Module 1 Nutrition - Covers diets of wild raptors, choices of diets for captive raptors, digestion, measuring the crop, rangle, casting, washed meat, supplements, diets for baby raptors, risks in feeding wild food and much more. Includes 36-page handbook. (running time 50 min.; PAL and NTSC; English, Spanish, and Arabic).

Module 2 Basic Training - Covers hacking, sources of birds, hooding, fitting equipment, and progress charts, and follows the training of a Peregrine Falcon, Saker, and Harris Hawk from hack to flying free. Includes 28-page handbook. (running time 52 min., PAL and NTSC, English).

Module 3 Anatomy - Learn about the skeleton, respiratory, reproductive, circulatory and immune systems, how the different organs function and where they are in the body. A knowledge of form and function is vital to understanding aspects of health care, management and training. Includes 32-page handbook. (running time 67 min., PAL and NTSC, English).

Module 4 Health Care NEW RELEASE!! - How to recognize the signs of ill health, what course of action to take, and how to look after your bird once the problem has been diagnosed. It looks in detail at hygiene, the immune system, viruses, and vaccination. It covers disease prevention during early training, parasites, respiratory problems, and lead poisoning. We learn where diseases come from, how to avoid them and how to give medication. We join some avian veterinarians in surgery to show you some of the treatment procedures. Includes 34-page handbook. (running time 85 min., PAL and NTSC, English).

Each module costs 24.99GBP + postage (2.00GBP for one video; 3.50GBP for two; 4.50GBP for three or more). Each module contains a voucher for 5GBP off subsequent purchases. To place an order, or for more information, please contact: Gemma Thomson, Faraway Film Productions, P.O. Box 19, Carmarthen SA33 5YL, Wales, UK; phone/fax: 44-1267-233864; e-mail: [hfi-staff@easynet.co.uk](mailto:hfi-staff@easynet.co.uk).

*(Editor's note: To improve The Bird Prey Management Series, Faraway Film Productions would like to hear from knowledgeable individuals interested in providing thoughtful reviews. Please contact Ms. Thomson if you are interested in reviewing one or more of the modules.)*

---

---

### FILM EVENINGS AT 6th WORLD CONFERENCE

In the evenings during the 6th World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls, there will be showings of films, videos, and slides. Please advise the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls, Wangenheimstr. 32, D-14193 Berlin, Germany (fax: 49-30-8928067, e-mail: [WWGBP@aol.com](mailto:WWGBP@aol.com)) well in advance if you wish to take part, clearly stating the medium (e.g., film or slides), duration, and other technical details, so that a programme may be prepared.

---

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION &  
3rd NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**

**New Orleans, Louisiana, September 24-28, 2002**

This quadrennial event is a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and network with ornithologists across the globe, as it is a joint meeting of the American Ornithologists Union, The Cooper Ornithological Society, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, the Raptor Research Foundation, the Mexican Ornithological Society (CIPAMEX), and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds.

**Plenary sessions:** *A new view of avian life history evolution applied to parental care, clutch size, and developmental patterns across the world* (T. E. Martin), *On a wing and a prayer: Is endocrine disruption affecting birds?* (T. Colborn), *The ongoing transformation to molecular-genealogical thought in avian microevolution: Conceptual springboard, quicksand, or both?* (J. Avise), *Migratory orientation: Development and adaptive plasticity* (K. P. Able).

**Meeting roundtables:** *Bird strike mitigation: Opportunities in applied ornithology* (J. M. Lamb), *Satellite telemetry methods* (K. D. Meyer, J. A. Coulson & B. A. Millsap), *Natural climate variability and birds: Recent advances in our understanding of world climate systems, and an examination of their effect on avian population dynamics* (E. A. Schreiber & D. Gemmill), *Celebrating 100 years of bird banding in North America* (J. Tautin et al.), *Conservation and ecology of disturbance-dependent birds* (F. R. Thompson III & J. Brawn).

**Meeting workshops** include three offered by M. Gustafson: *Introduction to Band Manager, Advanced Band Manager, Ageing and sexing birds in the hand (and in the field)*, as well as *Conservation of Gyps vultures in Asia* (J. Parry-Jones & T. Katzner).

**Field trips** offered are day trips: Grand Isle (barrier island), *Endangered and extinct (?) woodpeckers* (Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, Pearl River Wildlife Management Area), *Birding the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region* (includes the Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR), Bayou Sauvage NWR, *The Chandeleurs and the Mississippi River Delta* (Breton NWR and Delta NWR), *Hummingbird Gardens of the South*, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, and a nocturnal owl prowling. Canoe trips include paddling through the Manchac Swamp, the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, the Bogue Chitto River, and Devil's Swamp. Southeast Louisiana is famous for high densities of "swamp stomping" Red-shouldered Hawks and Barred Owls; they are likely to be seen on any trip.

New Orleans is famous for its food, jazz, international culture, hospitality, and party atmosphere. The price of registration includes admission to the Tuesday night social at the Aquarium of the Americas featuring the film *Wings Over the Wetlands*; Louisiana hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar; the Thursday night mid-conference picnic and party at the House of Blues with live zydeco music, a Cajun buffet dinner, and free drinks; and two art shows, *The Audubon legacy: The ornithologist as artist*, and *Anderson, Audubon et al.*

**Contact:** <http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02> or UNO Conference Services - NAOC 2002, Metropolitan College, New Orleans, LA 70148-9999 USA; phone: 1-800-258-8830; fax 1-504-280-7317; e-mail: [confmc@uno.edu](mailto:confmc@uno.edu).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### 2002

**September 24-28**

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION (3rd NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE)**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

*Contact:* <http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02> or UNO Conference Services - NAOC 2002, Metropolitan College, New Orleans, LA 70148-9999 USA; phone: 1-800-258-8830; fax: 1-504-280-7317; e-mail: [confmc@uno.edu](mailto:confmc@uno.edu).

**October 3-6**

**EAST EUROPEAN / MEDITERRANEAN GRIFFON VULTURE WORKING GROUP**

**Ankara, Turkey**

*Contact:* <http://www.gyps.org> or Edwin Vaassen, e-mail: [rrrct@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rrrct@yahoo.co.uk).

**October 24-27**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEOTROPICAL RAPTORS AND HARPY EAGLE SYMPOSIUM**

**Panama City, Panama**

*Contact:* <http://www.peregrinefund.org/nrconference.html> or Neotropical Raptor Conference, The Peregrine Fund, 5668 Flying Hawk Lane W, Boise, ID 83709 USA; phone: 1-208-362-3717; fax: 1-208-362-2376; e-mail: [tpf@peregrinefund.org](mailto:tpf@peregrinefund.org).

**November 23-25**

**3rd INTERNATIONAL LITTLE OWL SYMPOSIUM**

**Northwich, England**

*Contact:* Roy Leigh, Biota, Ascot Court 71-73 Middlewich Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7BP, England; e-mail: [RoySLeigh@aol.com](mailto:RoySLeigh@aol.com).

### 2003

**May 18-23**

**6th WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS**

**Budapest, Hungary**

*Contact:* [http://www.raptors-international.de/NEXT\\_CONFERENCE/next\\_conference.html](http://www.raptors-international.de/NEXT_CONFERENCE/next_conference.html) or World Working on Birds of Prey and Owls, P.O. Box 52, Towcester NN12 7ZW, England; phone/fax: 44-1604-862331; e-mail: [WWGBP@aol.com](mailto:WWGBP@aol.com) and [robin.chancellor@virgin.net](mailto:robin.chancellor@virgin.net) (please send all e-mail to both addresses).

**September 2-6**

**RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**Fairbanks, Alaska**

*Contact:* <http://www.alaskabird.org> or Nancy DeWitt, Alaska Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708 USA; phone: 1-907-451-7159; e-mail: [birds@alaskabird.org](mailto:birds@alaskabird.org).

**October 10-13**

**3rd SYMPOSIUM ON ASIAN RAPTORS**

**Kenting, Taiwan**

*Contact:* Raptor Research Group of Taiwan, 12 F., No. 309, Fu-Hsin N. Rd. Taipei 105, Taiwan, R.O.C.; phone: 886-2-87706470; fax: 886-2-87706469; e-mail: [rrgt@seed.net.tw](mailto:rrgt@seed.net.tw) or [yxsheu@ccvax.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:yxsheu@ccvax.sinica.edu.tw).

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**BLACK SEA RAPTOR SURVEYS** The Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife, BirdLife International's affiliate in Georgia, is looking for observers with good raptor identification skills to take part in autumn raptor migration monitoring along the eastern coast of the Black Sea, in the Batumi area. Observations will take place from 1 September to 15 November, at three observation places. Two foreign observers will be accompanied by local hosts who should also be trained in species identification.

Observers are encouraged to stay for at least two weeks, but this is negotiable, of course. The local costs are about \$10 US a day for food and accommodation, plus \$10-20 per day for optional travel if the volunteer wants to travel back and forth among watch-sites or elsewhere. Observers will be accommodated at the houses of local observers in order to increase benefits to the local economy and encourage local conservation efforts. For further information, please contact: **Lexo Gavashelishvili** ([lexo@mymail.ge](mailto:lexo@mymail.ge)) and **Ramaz Gokhelasvili** ([Ramaz\\_Gokhelasvili@dai.com](mailto:Ramaz_Gokhelasvili@dai.com)). Send your message to both addresses.

**PART-TIME MEWS MANAGER** for Denver non-profit foundation. Two years experience handling raptors (preferably in an education/zoological setting) required. E-mail resumes to: [rptoress@aol.com](mailto:rptoress@aol.com).

**SAKER FALCON SURVEYS** We plan to undertake Saker Falcon surveys in 2003 in the Tibetan Plateau of central China between April and July. We will have places available for one or two volunteers to join the team for the season. Living and working conditions will be severe to arduous. Surveys will be on foot, horse and car. Participants must speak Chinese or English, thrive on a diet of yak and noodles, and have no anti-social habits. We can guarantee you an experience you will never forget. Contact: **Dr. Nick Fox, Director of Falcon Research and Management, The Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, Abu Dhabi, UAE; e-mail: [office@falcons.co.uk](mailto:office@falcons.co.uk)**.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

---

---

**"COOL NORTH WIND: MORLEY NELSON'S LIFE WITH BIRDS OF PREY"** (ISBN 0-87004-426-5), by Stephen Stuebner, tells the story of one of America's foremost spokesmen for falcons, hawks, and eagles. Morley Nelson has devoted most of his eighty-plus years to the conservation of birds of prey. A master falconer and gifted film maker, he has worked to educate sportsmen, elected officials, leaders of industry, and the general public about the important role

raptors play in the world's ecosystem. Nelson was instrumental in the campaign to establish the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, home to one of the largest concentrations of breeding raptors in the world. He has worked on seven motion pictures and numerous television specials with his trained eagles and falcons, and crafted solutions to resolve raptor-electrocution problems. This 427-page hardcover book may be purchased for \$US 24.95 plus shipping from the publisher: **Caxton Press, 312 Main Street, Caldwell, ID 83605-3299 USA; phone: 1-800-657-6465; fax: 1-208-459-7450; e-mail: [publish@caxtonpress.com](mailto:publish@caxtonpress.com)**. A 15% discount is offered for on-line orders: <http://www.caxtonpress.com>.

**"RAPTORS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST"** (ISBN 1-57188-236-7) More than a field guide, this 152-page, all-color handbook by Thomas Bosakowski and Dwight G. Smith details the range, status, habitat requirements, nesting, eggs and young, diet and hunting behavior, territory and density, survey techniques, and conservation and management of raptors in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. This 6" x 9", softbound guide contains color range maps and text for 35 raptor species along with over 145 color photographs of raptors and their habitats. The text includes an introduction, 35 species accounts, 3 appendices, and over 340 references. This book may be purchased for \$US 19.95 plus shipping from the publisher: **Frank Amato Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 82112, Portland, OR 97282 USA; phone: 1-800-541-9498; e-mail: [service@amatobooks.com](mailto:service@amatobooks.com); web: <http://www.amatobooks.com>**.

## ON-LINE RESOURCES

---

---

**ITALIAN RAPTOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS** Abstracts of 100 papers presented at the First Italian Conference on Diurnal and Nocturnal Raptors (Villa Albrizzi-Franchetti, Treviso, March 9-10, 2002) may be viewed and downloaded at the Associazione Faunisti Veneti's website: <http://faunistiveneti.it>. Most (94) of the abstracts are in Italian; six are in English.

**RAPTOR DISCUSSION GROUPS** The World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls (WWGBP) has recently created several Yahoo Discussion Groups. Members regularly receive by e-mail news items of interest, conference announcements, members' requests for information, etc. in the shortest possible time. The Raptor Conservation group replaces *Raptor News*, the former e-mail newsletter of WWGBP. Other groups are: Greifvogel, a German speaking group; Spotted Eagles; Vulture Conservation; and Satellite Telemetry. Information on joining these groups can be found at [http://www.raptors-international.de/DISCUSSION\\_GRPs/discussion\\_grps.html](http://www.raptors-international.de/DISCUSSION_GRPs/discussion_grps.html).

### NEWS OF MEMBERS

---

**Nancy Read Francine**, Co-Chair of RRF's Education Committee, has new contact information: P.O. Box 714, Los Alamos, CA 93440-0714 USA; phone: 1-805-344-2428; e-mail: [nancy.read@mindspring.com](mailto:nancy.read@mindspring.com).

**Brian W. Smith** recently started a new job in Frankfort, Kentucky. He is now Grassland Systems Program Coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. He is still working towards completion of his dissertation from West Virginia University. Brian may be contacted at: Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, KY 40601 USA; phone: 1-502-564-5448 ext. 494; e-mail: [bwsmith533@yahoo.com](mailto:bwsmith533@yahoo.com).

### REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

---

**LESSER KESTREL TISSUE SAMPLES** We have started a project on the origin of Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni*) wintering in South Africa. They have communal roosting sites where several thousand birds gather each evening. We would like to determine the origin of these birds, e.g., whether they come from European or Asian breeding sites and whether populations mix here. We have established DNA markers that allow

such a phylogeographic analysis. Our project can only proceed if we can obtain samples from as many breeding colonies as possible. DNA can be best recovered from blood but also fresh moulting feathers can be used. If you have access to such material please contact us. Consider that Lesser Kestrels are subject to CITES regulations. Contact: **Prof. Dr. M. Wink, University Heidelberg, Institut fuer Pharmazeutische Biologie, Im Neuenheimer Feld 364, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany; e-mail: [wink@uni-hd.de](mailto:wink@uni-hd.de)**.

**LITERATURE SOUGHT** I am currently conducting a variety of literature searches for published papers and notes pertaining to all aspects of Falconiform and Strigiform species, as well as Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures, found east of the Mississippi River in North America. I am especially interested in items published since 1979, and in state or regional ornithology or raptor journals. This search is the first step in the writing of a new book, *Hawks and Owls of Eastern North America*, to be published next year by Rutgers University Press. If you have published any such papers or notes, I very much want to receive reprints or photocopies of those publications so the information they contain can be considered for possible inclusion in this forthcoming book. Thanks very much for your interest and assistance. Please mail all reprints and/or photocopies to: **Donald S. Heintzelman, Editor and Publisher, International Hawkwatcher, 629 Green Street, Allentown, PA 18102 USA; e-mail: [donsh@enter.net](mailto:donsh@enter.net)**.

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT - DONATIONS & TRANSPORT NEEDED!** Requests are coming in much faster than donations for RRF's optical equipment donation program supporting raptor research and educational projects worldwide. If you have equipment in good working condition that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to RRF for distribution to worthy programs that lack the resources to purchase new optics. Past donations have helped programs in Mexico, South America, Russia, and other areas around the globe. In addition to the more typical requests for binoculars and spotting scopes, we have also received a few requests for dissecting

microscopes, to be used for owl pellet analyses, necropsies, and other studies. Donations are distributed through the RRF Education Committee and are tax-deductible. The committee would also appreciate hearing from anyone who periodically travels between the United States and Latin America, and would be willing to transport donated equipment to recipients. Please direct donations and inquiries to: **Nancy Read Francine, P.O. Box 714, Los Alamos, CA 93440-0714 USA; phone: 1-805-344-2428; e-mail: [nancy.read@mindspring.com](mailto:nancy.read@mindspring.com).**

---



---

### FOR SALE

---



---

RRF PUBLICATIONS Back issues of *The*

*Journal of Raptor Research* (TJRR) Vol. 1-30 and all Raptor Research Reports may be purchased directly from RRF (**Jim Fitzpatrick, Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center, 12805 St. Croix Trail S, Hastings, MN 55033 USA; phone: 1-651-437-4359; fax: 1-651-438-2908; e-mail: [jim@carpenternaturecenter.org](mailto:jim@carpenternaturecenter.org)**). Some older issues of TJRR are not available. See <http://biology.boisestate.edu/raptor/rrf.htm#Back> issues for details and prices. Orders for four or more volumes receive a 30% discount. RRF decals and pins also are available. Vol. 31+ of TJRR may be purchased from the Ornithological Societies of North America (**Penny Wendland, P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044 USA; phone: 1-800-627-0629, ext. 233; fax: 1-785-843-1274; e-mail: [osna@allenpress.com](mailto:osna@allenpress.com)**).

### RECENT THESES ON RAPTORS

The U.S. Geological Survey's Richard R. Olendorff Memorial Library would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of each thesis or dissertation abstracted in *Wingspan*. This allows the Library to make theses available to scientists and managers worldwide through its Raptor Information System (RIS, see *Wingspan* 7(1):16). Please send theses to: Olendorff Memorial Library, U.S. Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Snake River Field Station, 970 Lusk Street, Boise, ID 83706 USA.

**Fontaine, A. J. 2002. HABITAT SELECTION OF RED-TAILED HAWKS (*BUTEO JAMAICENSIS*) IN PRAIRIE LANDSCAPES MANAGED FOR ENHANCED WATERFOWL RECRUITMENT. M.S. Thesis, McGill Univ., Montreal. 102pp.**

In the Canadian prairies, a major change has occurred in the raptor community of the central grasslands, where Swainson's (*Buteo swainsoni*) and ferruginous hawks (*B. regalis*) are being replaced by the Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*). The former central grasslands are now much reduced in size and have been replaced by an agricultural landscape with a mosaic of habitats now more recognized as aspen parkland. Although habitat requirements of Swainson's and ferruginous hawks are relatively well known, little is known about habitat use by Red-tailed Hawks in this region. This study evaluates productivity and habitat selection of Red-tailed Hawks breeding in aspen parkland. The study was conducted on Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV) assessment sites in central Saskatchewan in 1997 and 1998. Red-tailed Hawk nesting densities and productivity were determined at three sites. Home ranges were mapped. Microhabitat variables were measured in 0.04 ha plots centered on nest sites and in random locations. Macrohabitat use and availability data were generated based on digitized aerial

photographs of the sites using a Geographic Information System (GIS). Nesting densities averaging 0.40 nests/km<sup>2</sup> were similar to those in other aspen parkland areas but much higher than those more typical of the prairies and in most areas across the continent. All territorial pairs attempted to breed. Densities were limited by availability of nest sites, intraspecific territoriality, and minimum spatial requirements. Nests were dispersed regularly at two sites but clumped around the best hunting habitat at the other. The number of young fledged/nest (0.95) was low compared to other studies but nest success (63.6%) was similar. Red-tailed Hawks nested in areas with significantly more and larger overstory canopy trees but with significantly fewer trees in intermediate crown classes and lower canopy cover. The selection of these nest site features suggests that Red-tailed Hawks select nest sites with an unobstructed flight access and good visibility. Nests were in areas with greater amounts of waterfowl dense nesting cover (DNC), scrubland, and woodland and lesser amounts of cropland and human-related habitats when compared to randomly selected sites. Preference or avoidance of these cover types was related to prey abundance. DNC had a positive effect on productivity whereas pastures had a negative effect. Red-tailed Hawks may choose nest sites based on habitat characteristics within a 750 m radius from nest sites, which indicates a minimum spatial requirement of 1.77 km<sup>2</sup> in aspen parkland. Saskatchewan's aspen parkland provides excellent nesting habitat for Red-tailed Hawks. Nests were highly successful in areas managed for enhanced waterfowl recruitment. DNC and scrubland provide abundant prey, and other studies suggest that the abundant waterfowl in the surrounding wetlands form an important component of their diet. Resource managers should consider these factors when addressing the effects of habitat and predation on waterfowl in the region.

**Kenntner, N. 2002. CHLORORGANISCHE PESTIZIDE, POLYCHLORIERTE BIPHENYLE UND POTENTIELL TOXISCHE SCHWERMETALLE IN ORGANPROBEN VON SEAADLERN UND HABICHTEN (CHLORINATED PESTICIDES, POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS AND POTENTIALLY TOXIC HEAVY METALS IN ORGANS OF WHITE-TAILED EAGLES AND NORTHERN GOSHAWKS). Ph.D. Diss., Freie Universität Berlin. 86pp.**

*(Editor's note: Dr. Kenntner's entire dissertation may be viewed on-line at <http://darwin.inf.fu-berlin.de/2002/129/indexe.html>. One chapter is in German, and three are in English; an English abstract and summary are included.)*

**Love, O. P. 2001. ADRENOCORTICAL FUNCTION IN POSTNATALLY DEVELOPING AMERICAN KESTRELS (*FALCO SPARVERIUS*). M.S. Thesis, McGill Univ., Montreal. 87pp.**

This project investigated postnatal development of adrenocortical function in captive American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) employing measurements of basal and stress-induced levels of corticosterone at specific developmental stages. Chicks aged 10-days exhibited partially functioning adrenocortical systems with baseline levels comparable to adults. The ability to respond to external stressors increased through postnatal development and by the age of 22 days, stress-induced maximal levels of corticosterone were indistinguishable from those of one-year old adults, and levels of 28-day old birds were significantly higher than these adults. In addition, baseline and maximum stress-induced levels of corticosterone at all ages were significantly higher in first-hatched chicks than all other siblings and these effects grew stronger through development. These results suggest that the brain-pituitary-adrenal axis in this semi-altricial species is (1) already partially developed in young chicks and (2) only becomes fully functional when behavioral and neuromuscular development is nearly complete. Furthermore,

results from this study suggest that hatching asynchrony has an effect on this variation in stress-induced maximal levels of corticosterone during the latter half of postnatal development, with a higher degree of hatching asynchrony leading to larger disparity in adrenocortical function between first- and fourth-hatched chicks. This adrenocortical disparity resulting from female-mediated hatching asynchrony can potentially lead to both brood-reduction and brood survival under diametric food conditions, ensuring that the female's reproductive fitness is maximized in varying habitats. Variation of adrenocortical function among siblings may increase female efficiency in raising a brood of fit chicks, maximizing her reproductive success.

**McBride, T. J. 2002. METAL EXPOSURE AND EFFECTS IN AMERICAN KESTREL (*FALCO SPARVERIUS*) NESTLINGS RAISED ON A SMELTER-IMPACTED SUPERFUND SITE. M.S. Thesis, Texas Tech. Univ., Lubbock. 130pp.**

Nestling American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) inhabiting nest boxes placed throughout the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site, Montana, were monitored for reproductive success and growth over two successive breeding seasons. A gradient of decreasing soil contaminant concentrations occurred with increasing distance away from the smelter stack. The contaminants of concern (COCs; arsenic, cadmium, lead, copper, and zinc) were determined in food items, pellets, fecal/urate, blood, kidney and liver tissues. Hepatic and renal porphyrin profiles were characterized, and erythrocyte ALAD inhibition assessed, for use as indicators of health effects.

Site wide in 1999, 43 chicks hatched (81%) with 41 surviving to fledging age (95.3% fledging efficiency). In 2000, 34 chicks hatched (59%) with 32 surviving to fledging age (94% fledging efficiency). Nestling growth and demographics did not appear related to tissue contaminant levels.

Active boxes were grouped into two site types (Smelter Hill and Opportunity Ponds) based on their proximity to the smelter site. In 1999, Smelter Hill birds had higher blood lead, liver cadmium, lead, and copper, and kidney cadmium. In 2000, only blood samples were collected, with notably increased lead and cadmium from Smelter Hill birds.

Inhibition of erythrocyte ALAD activity at the highest blood lead concentrations indicated lead concentrations reached a threshold level sufficient to initiate biochemical effects. An increase in liver 4-carboxyl porphyrin at the highest liver lead levels likewise suggested sufficient exposure to initiate disruption of heme synthesis.

Food items were collected from each active nest. COC concentrations were higher in samples from Smelter Hill boxes, with notable increases seen in arsenic and lead. Contaminant levels in food items were sufficiently high for accumulation in nestling tissues, with elevated levels occurring in nestlings closer in proximity to the smelter.

**Roe, A. S. 2001. THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AVIAN BIOSENTINEL PROGRAM FOR MICHIGAN USING THE BALD EAGLE (*HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*). M.S. Thesis, Clemson Univ., Clemson, S.C. 89pp.**

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is a tertiary predator of the Great Lakes Basin aquatic food web. Due to its position at the top of the food chain, the Bald Eagle is susceptible to accumulation and biomagnification of a wide array of xenobiotics, including mercury and organochlorine compounds. The International Joint Commission and the State Of The Lake Ecosystem Conference members have suggested the Bald Eagle as a biological indicator species of the toxic effects of organochlorine compounds on piscivorous wildlife and on the effects of bioaccumulation and biomagnification in the

## Great Lakes.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality implemented a monitoring program using the Bald Eagle to monitor trends of Bioaccumulative Compounds of Concern (BCCs) under the Clean Michigan Initiative. These compounds include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), organochlorine pesticides (OCs), and mercury. The state has been divided into major watersheds, this sampling procedure will allow for the entire state to be sampled every five years. Each year, during normal banding activities, blood and feather samples from nestling Bald Eagles are collected within these designated watersheds.

Concentrations of total mercury, total PCBs, and 1,1-dichloro-2,2-bis(p-chlorophenyl)ethylene (p,p'-DDE) were measured in nestling tissues. A significant decrease in concentrations of mercury was observed in feathers of nestling Bald Eagles at Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota, between 1985-1989 and 1999-2000, while other sub-population mercury concentrations in Michigan remained the same. Concentrations of total PCBs and p,p'-DDE in plasma of nestling Bald Eagles have declined for most sub-populations in Michigan. Between 1989-1992 and 1999-2000, total PCB concentrations significantly decreased in all sub-populations. Concentrations of p,p'-DDE significantly decreased in all sub-populations except Lakes Michigan and Huron.

The Bald Eagle has been shown to be an appropriate model to monitor ecosystem contaminant levels. Great Lakes nestling Bald Eagles are receiving prey items from within the adult's local breeding territory. Concentrations of BCCs in nestling eagle feathers and blood reflect exposure to BCCs from within their food items. The Bald Eagle is therefore an appropriate indicator of ecosystem and water quality.

### *WINGSPAN* CONTRIBUTIONS

The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. wishes to thank the following people who contributed material to this issue of *Wingspan*: **Mark Anderson, Keith Bildstein, Clint Boal, Ralf Boegel, Thomas Bosakowski, Jack Cafferty, Bill Clark, C. W. Cornell, Jennifer Coulson, Jim Fitzpatrick, Alain Fontaine, Nick Fox, Nancy Read Francine, Umberto Gallo-Orsi, Donald Heintzelman, Todd Katzner, Oliver Love, Bill Mattox, Toby McBride, Mike McGrady, Bernd-Ulrich Meyburg, Brian Millsap, Jemima Parry-Jones, Anne Price, Amy Roe, Jevgeni Shergalin, Leopold Slotta-Bachmayr, Brian Smith, Jeff Smith, Andrea Swingley, Gemma Thomson, Munir Virani, Roger Wang, Michael Wink, Petra Bohall Wood, and The World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls.**

*Wingspan* welcomes contributions from RRF members and others interested in raptor biology and management. Articles and announcements should be sent, faxed, or e-mailed to the editor: Leonard Young, 1640 Oriole Lane NW, Olympia, WA 98502-4342 USA (phone/fax: 1-360-943-7394, e-mail: [wingspan@attbi.com](mailto:wingspan@attbi.com)). Deadline for the next issue is February 7, 2003.

### GYPVS VULTURE WORKSHOP

To all those interested in vultures and particularly in the decline of *Gyps* vultures in India and Pakistan.

There will be a workshop on the decline of *Gyps* vultures in the Indian Sub Continent to be held at the Third North American Ornithological Conference in New Orleans. The meeting dates are September 24-28, 2002, and the Vulture Workshop will be held on Thursday, September 26, from 2:15-5:15 PM. This workshop will be chaired by Todd Katzner and Jemima Parry-Jones.

A tentative list of speakers includes Dr. Debbie Pain, Dr. Munir Virani (or another representative from The Peregrine Fund), Todd Katzner, Jemima Parry-Jones, Dr. Lindsay Oaks, Dr. Mark Anderson, and Campbell Murn.

We would like to encourage as many people as possible to participate. We hope that by September we will be closer to identifying the cause of the vulture decline. Therefore, one goal of the workshop is to come up with a series of recommendations for the conservation of this genus.

For further information as we have it, contact us at [tkatzner@asu.edu](mailto:tkatzner@asu.edu) or [jjp@nbpc.demon.co.uk](mailto:jjp@nbpc.demon.co.uk), or go to the conference web site: <http://www.tulane.edu/~naoc-02/>.



**WINGSPAN**  
1640 Oriole Lane NW  
Olympia, WA 98502-4342 USA

Non-profit Organ.  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Olympia, WA  
Permit No. 78